

OKLAHOMA HAS EYE ON BIG COAL LANDS RAILROADS COVET

Strong Sentiment Prevails in Convention in Favor of Action.

LOBBYISTS IN STRUGGLE

Outnumber Representatives of the People at Guthrie Gathering.

It is doubtful if since the great struggle over the admission of Missouri in the Union there has been so tremendous a conflict of interests, in connection with the organization of a new State, as is today in progress in the constitutional convention of Oklahoma, at Guthrie.

Missouri's was a struggle between freedom and slavery. Oklahoma's is a contest between the people and the great interests which seek control of the tremendous natural resources of the State—its coal and oil—and would dictate the terms on which in future the new State shall deal with corporations.

There are 110 members of the constitutional convention which began its sittings three weeks ago. The spirit of liberalism and progressivism dominates the gathering. The "interests" made determined efforts to get their kind of people into the convention, but almost uniformly failed. Now they are resorting to the methods of the lobby and of manipulation and misleading. From the chair of the convention, the presiding officer, William Murray, a farmer with an Indian wife, made this statement:

"I want it distinctly understood by the people haunting the lobbies of this convention and of the hotels, that this convention cannot be bought. I call on the chairmen of the convention, the names and relations of all persons who approach them regarding the business of this convention, and I recommend that all lobbyists be required to register and state in what interest they are here."

Lobbyists Frightened.

The suggestion to require registration of lobbyists was promptly adopted, resulting in a scattering of many representatives of private interests. But there are still lobbyists by the hundred; several times as many of them as of the convention's members. There is a Standard Oil lobby, various railroad lobbies, sundry coal land lobbies, divers officials of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, trying to protect their interests in the coal and asphalt lands; a number of labor lobbies, endeavoring to secure insertion of advanced expressions on labor, child employment, employers' liability, a declaration against a fellow-servant law, regulation of hours of labor, and all related subjects. There is a woman suffrage lobby, a school-book trust lobby, and a lobby of independent oil producers as opposed to the Standard.

Illustrating the temper of this convention, it has developed that there is a strong sentiment in favor of the new State taking over the great coal field of Indian Territory. These coal lands, constituting one of the greatest coal fields on the continent, are owned by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, the Government acting as trustee for them. The ultra-progressives of the convention today call for \$1.50 at the month of the mines is sold 10 miles away at \$5 per ton, take the ground that nothing less than State ownership can protect the community in future. They demand that the credit of the new State be employed to buy these mineral rights. The alternatives, as they view it, are that the Federal Government will retain management of the field and lease the mining rights. Otherwise some huge private interest will ultimately get control of the field.

The Oklahomans fear that Congress-

THE POINT OF VIEW



sional management would ultimately mean Coal trust management, because Congress is so far away and so torn by conflicting ideas and interests that the State's concerns would in the end be overlooked or lost. This same problem is before Congress, which is trying to determine its policy in the matter of these coal lands.

While the interests are struggling for advantage on the floor of the constitutional convention at Guthrie, they are likewise looking after the development of matters in Washington, taking no chances of blocking efforts to inaugurate radical policies. It may turn out that Congress will stand in the way of the most radical policies that the new State would be willing to inaugurate if left alone.

Under a resolution of last session, a select committee of the Senate, composed of Senators Clark of Wyoming, Long of Kansas, Brandegee of Connecticut, Teller of Colorado, and Clark of Montana, spent two weeks in the Territory during the recess, and is again taking testimony on the subject of the disposition of the coal lands. It is charged that the committee ever worked harder or more conscientiously. They refused all entertainment while in the Territory, worked fourteen hours a day, and heard everybody who could shed light on any phase of the question.

Senator Clark's Good Work.

Senator Clark of Montana proved himself invaluable by reason of his wonderful knowledge of mining. In his cross-examinations he repeatedly put to the blush the alleged experts who appeared before the committee. Nothing got away from him, nothing could mislead him. He made himself a terror to the representatives of special interests, and likewise to the supposed experts of the Government, who attempted to pose as authorities. In short, he gave to the inquiry full benefit of the vast information about mining matters which has enabled him to make himself one of the world's richest men.

It was the consensus of opinion when the committee's hearings were held in the Territory that the committee would recommend selling the surface for agricultural purposes and reserve the mineral rights for future disposition. This plan was urged on Congress last session by Senator La Follette, and the

committee is coming to accept it, as the President has already done. The Senate committee, indeed, reported in favor of it last session, but the Senate rejected it and allowed the matter to hang fire till this session.

More than two-thirds of the coal lands now being worked are under leases which the railroads of the Territory control. An aggregate of 100,000 acres is under lease, leaving 335,000 still to be disposed of, a considerable part of which is not workable under present conditions.

The railroads were before Congress last session, it was freely charged, in the effort to secure complete control of these fields, and were balked. They have not by any means given up their effort, however, to secure what at that time they failed to carry off, and indications are that they have no intention of dropping their struggle.

Syndicate in Field.
It is understood that a syndicate is in existence which is ready and anxious to take over the entire coal field in a block, and is using every effort to bring about a situation in which this will be possible. It is charged that such an arrangement would place the whole coal business in the hands of a trust, and opposition will be maintained to the end against such a determination.

The Standard Oil Company has leases of 450,000 acres of oil lands in the Osage Indian country, which they want confirmed. Secretary Hitchcock has stood as a lion in their path, blocking this game, and the Standard people want a resolution of Congress given up their effort to confirm the leases. Altogether the struggle of the interests is a titanic one. It will be many years before it will have been fought to a conclusion.

THE EASY LIFE.

In a part of Arkansas, where the natives take life easy, a young man and his sister were one day sitting on the porch when a funeral passed.

The boy, who was whittling in a chair tilted comfortably back against the side of the house on its hind legs, remarked: "I reckon of 'man Johnson's' got about the biggest funeral that's ever been held around here."

"A pretty good-sized one, is it?" questioned the sister.

"You betcher," the boy answered.

"I would like to see it," replied the girl.

"What a pity I ain't facin' that way!" Philadelphia-Ledger.

FLIRT WITH JUROR? POOH! POOH! NEVER

Corporation Alleges Pretty Girl's Smiles Influenced Damage Verdict.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 17.—George L. V. Steumer has filed his indignant answer to the Cincinnati Hamilton and Dayton Railroad Company's charge. He was one of the jurors who gave a verdict for \$25,000 damages to young Miss Mollie McGuire, who lost both legs in an accident on the railroad. The heartless corporation accused Mr. Steumer, who is twenty-four years old, unmarried, living with his mother at Avondale, of having flirted with Miss McGuire's sister, Miss Fannie, during the trial, and so of having been gently influenced toward his verdict.

"The idea of any one saying that I smiled at or flirted with a juror at the trial!" exclaimed Miss Fannie, an extremely pretty girl. "I wouldn't know Mr. Steumer if I saw him again. He's very good looking, isn't he? He needed no influence to recompense my poor sister, in part. Think of losing both your—both your limbs!" exclaimed Miss Fannie, with a glance toward her toes. "Why, I did nothing but weep at the trial, and she began to cry and looked prettier than ever."

Her brother and sister soothed her, saying, "The very idea of Fannie flirting with George was always popular with the girls," said Steumer's proud mother, at their home, 4509 Eden street. "He has plenty of girl friends, but no sweetheart. I have never heard him speak of Miss Fannie McGuire."

BLIND ARE TO ENJOY READING AND MUSIC

The following is the program for volunteer readings and music in the reading room for the blind at the Library of Congress this week between 2:30 and 3:30 p. m.:

Tuesday, December 18, lecture, Capt. Osborne H. Oldroyd.

Thursday, December 20, song recital by H. P. Hoover and Harry Wheaton Howard.

Saturday, December 22, reading, Mrs. Harold J. Sewall.

The door to the reading room will be closed promptly at 2:30 p. m., and will be opened thereafter only between the numbers of the program.

PUTTING IT MILDLY.

Connecticut could get along just as well with fewer head-on train collisions—Hartford Times.



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If you want a finely adjusted watch at a popular price, ask for the G. M. WHEELER grade.

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Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Dizziness from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Biliousness, Nausea, Headache, Stomach Ache, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER.

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HALF A MILLION TO DEFEND THAW

Mother Says She Expects to Spend at Least That Sum.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 17.—Half a million dollars is the amount Mrs. William Thaw expects to expend to clear her son, Harry Kendall Thaw, of the charge of murdering Stanford White, according to a statement which she is said to have made to an intimate friend during her recent visit to this city.

In a long talk with her friends Mrs. Thaw said that she estimated that the counsel fees would amount to \$250,000, and that close to \$75,000 would be spent in Pittsburgh in connection with the case, the balance of \$175,000 covering the expenses in New York and other places.

"While I am prepared to spend the last dollar I have in defense of Harry I do not think the whole trial will cost more than \$500,000 is the statement which Mrs. Thaw made."

TORTURED BY ITCHING ECZEMA

Suffered Tremendous Itching Over Whole Body—Scratched Until Bled—Worse at Night, With Soreness and Excruciating Pains—A Western Lady's

WONDERFUL CURE BY CUTICURA REMEDIES

"Last year at this time I suffered with a tremendous itching on my back, which grew worse and worse, until it spread over the whole body, and only my face and hands were free. For four months or so I suffered the tortures of the damned, and I had to scratch, scratch, scratch, until I bled. At night when I went to bed things got worse, and I had at times to get up and scratch my body all over, until I was as sore as could be, and until I suffered excruciating pains. I did not know what it was, and resorted to a number of blood purifiers, using at times also Cuticura Soap. They told me then that I was suffering from eczema. Then I made up my mind that I would also use Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Resolvent. I used them according to instructions, and very soon indeed I was greatly relieved. I continued until well, and now I am ready to recommend the Cuticura Remedies to any one who suffers as did my obedient servant. Mrs. Mary Metzger, Sweetwater, Okla., June 28, 1905."

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Why Take Business Home?

Are Your Nerves Constantly Strained With Groundless Worries? The cause of this tense condition is in your stomach. Your food does not digest properly. Nine-tenths of all dyspepsia and indigestion is of the nervous type and the only certain cure is to right the cause. Tonics, brain foods, bitters, etc., are mere temporary stimulants. Your stomach and small intestines have become deranged by improper selection of foods, imperfect mastication and irregularity both as to time and amount of eating.

The mucous coating of the stomach and intestines has lost its power of secreting the gastric juice (an important factor in digestion) the muscles of the middle coating are correspondingly lifeless in grinding up the food, and as a result, the food lies in your stomach fermenting, poisoning the blood, irritating the nerves and breaking down the system.

Something must be done to arouse the digestive organs to action. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets alone have been found capable of digesting the food for the unhealthy stomach. They contain diastase, pepsin and other digestive agents which the stomach itself possesses when in health. These agents digest the food for the stomach and give the stomach a chance to rest and regain its normal powers.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are not a patent medicine, the formula for their preparation having been made public and known to 40,000 physicians in the United States and Great Britain. By Government tests, Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets have been shown not only to contain no harmful ingredients, but to possess digestives of higher purity than found in any other preparation.

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PALESTINE AND HOLY LAND

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TONIGHT AND THE GENIUS
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WHAT WOULD A GENTLEMAN DO?
NEXT WEEK MATINEES XMAS DAY AND SATURDAY.
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